

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT L 00681 241505Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 TRSE-00 AID-05 OMB-01
ACDA-07 ARA-10 EA-07 NEA-10 /124 W
-----075950 241511Z /46

R 241320Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6815
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0681

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV US UN SF WA
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON NAMIBIA

REF: STATE 142381 (USUN 1964)

1. FRENCH AMBASSADOR MERLLIE, BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER WARD
AND I MET WITH PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM JUNE 24 TO BRIEF HIM
ON NAMIBIA IN ACCORDANCE REFTEL. BY PRIOR ARRANGEMENT I
HANDLED BRIEFING, AS MERLLIE'S ENGLISH IS LIMITED AND WARD
IS BRAND NEW. ALSO PRESENT AND TAKING NOTES WERE FOREIGN
MINISTRY PERM SEC PARFAIT AND RAMGOOLAM'S PERM SEC, C.K.
BANYMANDHUB. LATTER WILL BE ACCOMPANYING RAM TO OAU SUMMIT
IN LIBREVILLE.
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PAGE 02 PORT L 00681 241505Z

2. RAMGOOLAM'S FIRST REACTION WAS TO PRAISE EFFORT OF CONTACT
GROUP. HE SAID THEY HAD PRODUCED AN "IMPROVEMENT," AND AS A MAN
OF PEACE AND A MODERATE HE WELCOMED ANY PROGRESS IN THE AREA
OF NEGOTIATIONS. STICKING POINT FOR THE AFRICANS, HE SAID,
WILL BE THE TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND FACT THAT SOUTH
AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WILL APPOINT THE ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL. HE

PRE

EDICTED THIS WOULD BE FOUND UNACCEPTABLE BY THE AFRICANS.
NEW PLAN WOULD BE "SCRUTINIZED WITH SUSPICION" BY OAU MEMBERS,
HE SAID.

3. RAM THEN REMARKED THAT "WE" (OAU MEMBERS) HAVE INFORMATION FROM
INSIDE SOUTH AFRICA THAT NOTHING HAS CHANGED AND THAT VORSTER
IS SIMPLY TRYING TO BUY TIME. AFRICAN STATES ARE SKEPTICAL THAT
SAG IS SINCERER. NEVERTHELESS, HE CONTINUED, HE WOULD CONSULT
WITH HIS COLLEAGUES IN LIBREVILLE AND HIS PRESENT INTENTION WAS
TO SAY SOMETHING ENCOURAGING ABOUT THIS LATEST PLAN FOR
NAMIBIA, EVEN THOUGH HE MIGHT BE CRITICIZED FOR IT. ATTITUDE
OF SWAPO WOULD BE CRUCIAL, AND IT WOULD OF COURSE BE HELPFUL IF
WALDHEIM CAME OUT IN SUPPORT OF THIS PLAN AT LIBREVILLE.

4. SPECULATING ABOUT LIBREVILLE CONFERENCE, RAM SAID HOSTILE
STATES ON THIS ISSUE WOULD BE ANGOLA, MOZAMBIQUE, ALGERIA, CONGO
BRAZZAVILLE, BENIN AND MADAGASCAR. LATTER TWO WOULD NOT BE
PRESENT, HE HAD HEARD. IF NIGERIA AND GHANA WERE IN FAVOR, THAT
WOULD HELP A LOT, AND EGYPT WOULD GIVE NO TROUBLE, HE REMARKED.
RAM SAID HIS OWN REPORT TO THE OAU AS OUTGOING CHAIRMAN WOULD BE
"MODERATE". AFTER GIVEING SPEECH HE PLANNED TO "WITHDRAW" AND LET
HIS FOREIGN MINISTER, SIR HAROLD WALTER, DO THE TALKING. "I AM
VERY GLAD TO BE HANDING OVER THE OAU CHAIRMANSHIP NEXT WEEK," HE
CONCLUDED.

KEELEY

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PAGE 03 PORT L 00681 241505Z

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